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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/236,350	01/25/1999	ISAMU UENO	35.C13282	1615
5514	7590	12/14/2004	EXAMINER	
FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO			MISLEH, JUSTIN P	
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA			ART UNIT	
NEW YORK, NY 10112			PAPER NUMBER	

2612

DATE MAILED: 12/14/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/236,350

Applicant(s)

UENO ET AL.

Examiner

Justin P Misleh

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 July 2004 and 24 August 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Response to Arguments*

1. Applicant's arguments filed 2 July 2004 and 24 August 2004 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.
2. The Applicant argues the Ukita patent is relied upon as disclosing an operation circuit as called for in Claim 1; however, figure 8 of Ukita does not disclose a two rows x two columns periodicity unit of color filters and instead shows a four rows x two columns array. In the Non-Final Office Action (31 March 2004), the Examiner did not rely upon Ukita to teach or show that the color filter array has a periodicity of two rows x two columns. Nonetheless, the rejection has been rewritten so as to precisely identify how the Examiner interprets the claim language and how the prior art reads on the claim language.
3. Since the rejection has been rewritten in a slightly different interpretation, Applicant's arguments with respect to Claim 1 are moot.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. ~~Claims 1-8 are~~ <sup>Claims 1-8 are</sup> rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa et al. in view of Ukita.

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6. For **Claim 1**, Takizawa et al. disclose, as shown in <sup>Fig. 4</sup> 4 and 5 and as stated in column 8 (lines 44 – 54), an image pickup apparatus (see figure 1) comprising:

a plurality of pixels (There is a one-to-one correspondence of each filter color to a single pixel; see column 6, lines 34 – 40.);

a color filter array (Any one of the respective filter of figures 4 and 5.) of four filters (combination complimentary colors) disposed on said plurality of pixels (see column 8, lines 44 – 54);

wherein said color filter array (see figures 4 and 5) has a periodicity unit of two rows x two columns (Takizawa et al. specifically states, “Figures 4 to 6 each illustrate a basic structure of combination of each color filter and according to the number of pixels of the CCD, the filter structure having the same pattern is repeatedly employed.”); and

wherein colors of the color filters in the periodicity unit of two rows x two columns are all different from each other and have fixed positions (In figure 4, the four colors are: Magenta, Green, Cyan, and Yellow. In figure 5, the four colors are: White, Green, Cyan, and Yellow.).

While Takizawa et al. disclose wherein the color filter array has a periodicity unit of two rows x two columns and an operation circuit for performing interpolation on the basis of the periodicity unit; Takizawa et al. do not disclose an operation circuit that provides at least two different color difference signals on the basis of a two rows x two columns arrangement.

On the other hand, Ukita also provides an image pickup apparatus with a color filter array of four filters disposed in two rows x two columns arrangement and an operation circuit. More specifically, Ukita teaches, as shown in figure 3 and as stated in columns 9 (lines 38 – 58) 10 (lines 48 – 67), and 11 (lines 1 – 33), an operation circuit (CLCRCB 104) that provides two

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different color difference signals (CR and CB) on the basis of four color filters disposed in a two rows x two columns arrangement (Filter positions:  $x, y$ ;  $x+1, y$ ;  $x, y+1$ ;  $x+1, y+1$ ).

As stated in Ukita at column 7 (lines 23 – 33), at the time the invention was made, one with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include an operation circuit that provides at least two different color difference signals on the basis of four color filters disposed in a two rows x two columns arrangement, as taught by Ukita, in the image pickup apparatus, of Takizawa et al., as a means for increasing the number of effective pixels of the image pickup apparatus and restricting the generation of ghost color signals. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to include an operation circuit that provides at least two different color difference signals on the basis of four color filters disposed in a two rows x two columns arrangement, as taught by Ukita, in the image pickup apparatus, of Takizawa et al.

7. As for **Claim 2**, Takizawa et al. disclose, as shown in figure 4, an image pickup apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the color filters in the periodicity unit include a filter for transmitting only green light (G of figure 4) in a visible light range, a filter for intercepting only blue (Ye of figure 4) color in the visible light range, a filter for intercepting only green light (Mg of figure 4) in the visible light range, and a filter for intercepting only red light (Cy of figure 4) in the visible light range.

8. As for **Claim 3**, as shown in Claim 1, Ukita also disclose, as shown in figure 8, an image pickup apparatus comprised of a plurality of pixels and a color filter array of four colors (Mg, G, ye, and Cy) disposed on said plurality of pixels wherein colors of color filters within a unit of two rows by two columns are all different (clearly shown in figure 8). In addition, Ukita

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disclose, as shown as stated in columns 15 (lines 33 – 64), 16, and 17 (lines 1 – 59), the image pickup apparatus further comprising a first operation unit which performs an operation of  $A + B - C - D$  (see column 15, lines 44 – 54), where A, B, C, and D represent signals picked up from an area of two rows by two columns. As stated in columns 16 (7 – 12), at the time the invention was made one with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include the first operation performing the operation  $A + B - C - D$  as taught by Ukita in the image pickup apparatus of Takizawa et al. as a means to provide a luminance and a color difference signal for each pixel thereby yielding a high resolution color separation. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious for one with ordinary skill in the art to include the first operation performing the operation  $A + B - C - D$  as taught by Ukita in the image pickup apparatus of Takizawa et al.

9. As for **Claim 5**, as shown in Claim 3, Ukita also disclose, as shown in figure 8, an image pickup apparatus comprised of a plurality of pixels and a color filter array of four colors (Mg, G, ye, and Cy) disposed on said plurality of pixels wherein colors of color filters within a unit of two rows by two columns are all different (clearly shown in figure 8). In addition, Ukita disclose, as shown as stated in column 15 (lines 33 – 64), 16, and 17 (lines 1 – 59), the image pickup apparatus further comprising a first operation unit which performs an operation of  $A + C - B - D$  (see column 16, lines 39 – 46), where A, B, C, and D represent signals picked up from an area of two rows by two columns. As stated in columns 16 (7 – 12), at the time the invention was made one with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include the first operation performing the operation  $A + C - B - D$  as taught by Ukita in the image pickup apparatus of Takizawa et al. as a means to provide a luminance and a color difference signal for

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each pixel thereby yielding a high resolution color separation. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious for one with ordinary skill in the art to include the first operation performing the operation  $A + C - B - D$  as taught by Ukita in the image pickup apparatus of Takizawa et al.

10. As for **Claims 4 and 6**, Ukita disclose, the image pickup apparatus wherein the signals A and B are disposed on a same line or on a same column, and the signals C and D are disposed on a same line or column.

11. As for **Claim 7**, Takizawa et al. disclose, an image pickup apparatus comprising: a plurality of pixels; and a color filter array of four colors disposed on said plurality of pixels, wherein said color filter array has a periodicity of two rows by two columns, and wherein colors of color filters in a periodical unit of two rows by two columns are all different from each other and have fixed positions. Takizawa et al. do not disclose, the image pickup apparatus further comprising a first read-out unit which reads out a difference between: (a) an addition signal of a first row, first column signal and a first row, second column signal, and (b) an addition signal of a second row, first column signal and a second row, second column signal, in an area of two rows by two columns, and a second readout unit which reads out a difference between: (a) an addition signal of a first row, first column signal and a second row, first column signal, and (b) an addition signal of a first row, second column signal and a second row, second column signal, in the area of two rows by two columns.

However, Ukita also disclose, as shown in figure 8, an image pickup apparatus comprised of a plurality of pixels and a color filter array of four colors (Mg, G, ye, and Cy) disposed on said plurality of pixels wherein colors of color filters within a unit of two rows by two columns are all

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different (clearly shown in figure 8). In addition, Ukita disclose, as shown as stated in columns 15 (lines 33 – 64), 16, and 17 (lines 1 – 59), the image pickup apparatus further comprising a first read-out unit (see column 15, lines 44 – 54) see which reads out a difference between: (a) an addition signal of a first row, first column signal and a first row, second column signal, and (b) an addition signal of a second row, first column signal and a second row, second column signal, in an area of two rows by two columns, and a second readout unit (see column 16, lines 39 – 46) which reads out a difference between: (a) an addition signal of a first row, first column signal and a second row, first column signal, and (b) an addition signal of a first row, second column signal and a second row, second column signal, in the area of two rows by two columns. As stated in columns 16 (7 – 12), at the time the invention was made one with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include a first and second readout unit performing the operations as taught by Ukita in the image pickup apparatus of Takizawa et al. as a means to provide a luminance and a color difference signal for each pixel thereby yielding a high resolution color separation. Therefore, at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious for one with ordinary skill in the art to include the first and second readout units performing the operations as taught by Ukita in the image pickup apparatus of Takizawa et al.

12. As for **Claim 8**, Takizawa et al. disclose, the image pickup apparatus wherein areas of two rows by two columns are disposed without any space there between.

13. **Claims 9 and 10** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takizawa et al. in view of Ukita in further view of Sugiki.



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14. As for **Claims 9 and 10**, Takizawa et al. in view of Ukita et al. show that it is obvious to provide an image pickup apparatus comprising a plurality of pixels; and a color filter array of four colors disposed on said plurality of pixels, wherein said color filter array has a periodicity of two rows by two columns, wherein colors of color filters in a periodical unit of two rows by two columns are all different from each other and have fixed positions and an operation circuit that provides at least two different color difference signals on the two rows x two columns basis. However, Takizawa et al. in view of Ukita do not disclose an image pickup apparatus further comprising a read-out unit that reads out an addition signal of all signals in an area of four rows x one column.

However, Sugiki also disclose an image pickup apparatus comprising a plurality of pixels and a color filter array of four colors disposed on said plurality of pixels. More specifically, as shown in figure 1, the four colors disposed on the plurality of pixels are Green, Cyan, Blue, and Magenta. As stated in column 1 (lines 54 – 59), to obtain one color signal, four signals representing four adjacent pixels of the same column must be processed. Thus, Sugiki teach the read-out unit that reads out an addition signal of all signals in an area of four rows x one column. As stated in column 1 (lines 43 – 46), at the time the invention was made, one with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to include a read-out unit that reads out an addition signal of all signals in an area of four rows x one column, as taught by Sugiki, in the image pickup apparatus of Takizawa et al. in view of Ukita, as for reading data of all the pixels within one field-period thereby enhancing the time-domain resolution without reducing sensitivity of the imaging device. Therefore, at the time invention was made, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to have include a read-out unit that reads out an addition signal of all

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signals in an area of four rows x one column, as taught by Sugiki, in the image pickup apparatus of Takizawa et al. in view of Ukita.

Furthermore, Sugiki does not disclose a read-out unit that reads out an addition signal of all signals in an area of four columns x one row. However, for the same motivation that it would have been obvious to include a read-out unit that reads out an addition signal of all signals in an area of four rows x one column, it also would have been obvious to include a unit that reads out an addition signal of all signals in an area of four columns x one row.

***Conclusion***

15. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Justin P Misleh whose telephone number is 703.305.8090. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 AM to 5:30 PM and on alternating Fridays from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Wendy R Garber can be reached on 703.305.4929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703.872.9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

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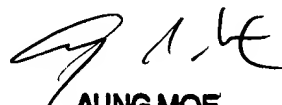
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system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*JPM*

*December 8, 2004*

  
**AUNG MOE**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**